

New Mexico State University

Biomedical Research Seminar Series
Speaker Announcement

Friday, Oct. 6, 2017, 3:30 pm

Domenici Hall, Rm 109

(Refreshments served at 3:00)



Rebecca Palacios, PhD,

*Associate Professor,
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New Mexico State University*

Conexiones: A Cultural Adaptation of an Evidence-Based Cancer Education Program

Approximately 1.5 million cancer survivors are parents of minor children, with approximately 80% of these survivors being women under the age of 50 years. Most of what is known about the challenges of parenting dependent children following a cancer diagnosis is based on studies with NHW mothers, with little known about the experiences of cancer-diagnosed Hispanic mothers. The purpose of this study was to describe, in their own words, the lived experience of Hispanic mothers who are in the early phases of cancer treatment and recovery while concurrently rearing dependent children. Nine mothers participated in focus groups interviews. Verbatim transcripts were coded using inductive content analysis within a framework of grounded theory. Analysis revealed 14 domains that organized participants' responses around four key areas. Although one group of domains highlighted the mothers' perceived advantages of being extremely open with their children about her cancer, a second group of domains highlighted the mothers' struggles in knowing what to share with their children. Another group of domains related to participants' evaluation of their maternal role following cancer. A final group of domains characterized the behaviors of the children in response to the mother's cancer. The environment in which Hispanic mothers managed the early phases of treatment and rehabilitation, was co-created with their children. Mothers and their children mutually protected each other from the negative impacts of cancer.

The BMRS series is supported by the Office of the Provost, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Departments of Chemistry & Biochemistry and Biology, and the NM-INBRE, RISE, MARC, and HHMI programs.

For more information or to meet with the speaker please contact Shelley Lusetti at slusetti@nmsu.edu



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